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3. AN AUTOGRAPH OF JOHANNES TACKIUS (1617-1675)

BY
GENEVIEVE MILLER

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TEXTS AND DOCUMENTS

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An example of a course announcement in natural philosophy and medicine at a German University during the middle of the 17th century is seen in the autograph of Johannes Tackius which is preserved in the Schüz Collection of Autographs and Portraits in the Welch Medical Library. (See Fig. 1.)

Tackius was professor of oratory and of medicine at the University of Giessen and the physician to the landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt. He wrote a number of books, all of which reflected the teachings of the iatrochemist school of thought to which he adhered. He died on August 30, 1675 at the age of 58.¹

His announcement and its translation follow:

Philosophiae Naturalis et Medicinae Studiosis

Τὸ ἐνζῆν καὶ ἐνπράττειν

Ad Naturae arcana sanitatisque errores corrigendos denuo vos voco studiosi solertissimi. Praeterita quidem aestate feliciter caeptum erat, at aulica totum nostrum cursum remorabantur negotia. Iam ergo denuo aliquid moliendum est. Adeste ergo frequentes in aedibus meis, qui privata opera mea in naturae rebus indagandis operam collocaturi estis vestram, componam me ad placita vestra sive disputando sive aliud quid agendo, non paenitebit vos temporis, quod physicis impenderitis contemplationibus, faxit Deus, ut feliciter incipiam, felicius quam ante hac progrediar, tandemque vestrum omnium emolumento colophonem addam. Valet Dabatur e Musaeo meo. Sexto Idus Octob. 1652.
ab eo, qui vester totus est,

JOH. TACKIUS D. M.

¹ *Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales* (Paris, 1825), Tome VII, p. 294.

To Students of Natural Philosophy and Medicine

My best wishes for good life and good health.

To correct the secrets of Nature and the errors of health again I call you, clever students. Indeed the course had been undertaken successfully last summer, but court business delayed it entirely. Therefore now again something may be started. Therefore be present in my rooms in large numbers, you who are about to arrange your work in investigating the things of nature with my private service. I will place myself at your pleasure, either for disputation or for anything else. The time will not displease you that you will apply to the contemplations of nature. May God grant that I may begin happily, that I may proceed more successfully than before, and may finally come to a successful end for the benefit of all of you.

Farewell Given from my Study. October 10, 1652.

from him, who is wholly yours,

JOHANNES TACKIUS M. D.

Philosophia Naturalis
 et Medicinæ Studiofis
 Ὡς εὖ γὰρ ἢ εὐπαρτέω.

Ad Naturæ arcana sanitatisq; errores corrigendos
 demum vos Voco Studiofi solertissimi. Preterita quæ
 astate feliciter ceptum erat, at antiqua totum non
 cursum remorabantur negotia. Jam ergo demum aliquid
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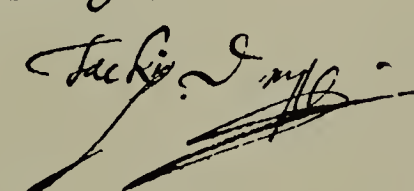
ab eo, q. vester totus est,
 Joh. Tackius. 

Fig. 1.

Autograph of Johannes Tackius (1617-1675).

